

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the forgoing Amendment, claims 1-7, 9-12, 14-36, and 38-59 are currently pending in this application. Claims 8 and 37 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 11-12, 14-15, 18, 24-25, 27-29, 30, 35-36, and 38-39 have been amended to more clearly recite that the power level "corresponds to" the power control "bit". New claims 42-59 have been added to more distinctly claim subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant submits that no new matter has been introduced into the application by these amendments.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102(b)

Claims 1-12 and 14-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,884,196 to Lekven et al. (hereinafter "Lekven").

With respect to claim 1, the Examiner asserts that Lekven discloses a method for maintaining synchronization and power control of wireless signals transmitted on a reverse link. The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

In claim 1, a subscriber unit transmits an idle mode signal to a base station in order to maintain an idle mode connection and synchronization with the base station over a reverse link. Upon receipt of the idle mode signal, the base station

measures the power level of the received idle mode signal. Then, the base station then transmits a power control bit which is used by the subscriber unit to maintain synchronization and reverse link power control. An advantage of the claimed invention is that synchronization and reverse link power control does not have to be re-established when going from an idle mode to an active mode.

In contrast, Lekven discloses a method for a subscriber unit to establish a bidirectional link with a base station. In Lekven, a subscriber unit transmits an access request message on an access channel to the base station in order to establish a reverse link with the base station (See Lekven, column 7, lines 12-51). The power level of the access request message is increased until the base station receives the message and sends back an acknowledgement. Lekven discloses as follows:

Each access probe carries the same information but is transmitted at a higher power level than the previous one. The access probes continue until a base station acknowledgement is received at the remote unit.

... each successive access probe is sent at an increased power level as compared to the previous one and the access channel is not power controlled...

(See Lekven, column 7, lines 21-24, 28-32.) Lekven teaches power control on the forward link broadcast channel as is illustrated in Figure 2. Subscriber units must use the access channel to signal the base station if the subscriber units are in need

of more power from a forward link broadcast channel (see Lekven, column 7, lines 63-66). Unlike the claimed invention, Lekven fails to disclose adjusting the transmit power of a subscriber unit in response to a power control bit generated by a base station as is recited in claim 1. Claim 1 of the present invention recites "transmitting, to the subscriber access unit, a power control bit indicative of a change to the power level of successive idle mode signals" and "transmitting a successive idle mode signal from the subscriber access unit to the base station processor at the new power level, the subscriber access unit and the base station processor maintaining the idling mode connection at the power level corresponding to the power control bit." As this claim clearly performs power control on a reverse link in response to a power control bit it is distinguishable over Lekven.

Furthermore, Lekven fails to teach a method that permits a subscriber unit to maintain an idle mode connection with a base station when the subscriber unit is not actively sending data. In Lekven, a base station terminates a forward link broadcast channel connection with a subscriber unit if the base station fails to receive a power request message from a subscriber unit for a predetermined amount of time (see Lekven, column 9, lines 47-56). Unlike the claimed invention, passive subscriber units do not have an established reverse link signal to any of the base stations (see Lekven, column 7, lines 52-54). With respect to subscriber units, Lekven discloses an active mode of operation in which forward and reserve channels

are established and a passive mode of operation in which the subscriber unit listens to the base station transmit on a forward channel. Lekven, in contrast to the claimed invention, fails to disclose an idle mode of operation in which a subscriber unit transmits an idle mode signal to the base station in order to maintain synchronization and reverse link power control with the base station. Accordingly, claim 1 is further distinguishable over Lekven.

Claims 2-7, 9-12 and 14-17 are dependent on claim 1 and are clearly distinguishable from Lekven.

With respect to claim 18, claim 18 is directed to a system for maintaining synchronization and power control of wireless signals sent between wireless gateways. For the reasons presented above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 18 and dependent claims 19-29 are clearly distinguishable from Lekven.

With respect to claim 30, claim 30 is directed to a subscriber unit configured to maintain synchronization and power control of wireless signals over a communications path. For the reasons presented above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 30 and dependent claims 31-36, 38-41 are clearly distinguishable from Lekven.

Applicant: James A. Proctor Jr.
Application No.: 09/997,733

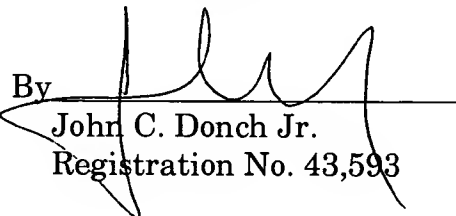
Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1-7, 9-12, 14-36, and 38-59, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Proctor Jr.

By 
John C. Donch Jr.
Registration No. 43,593

Volpe and Koenig, P.C.
United Plaza, Suite 1600
30 South 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-6400
Facsimile: (215) 568-6499

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